

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to the control and supervision of instruments and apparatus, such as controllers, panel meters, transmitters, signal conditioners and the like, for use in the operation, supervision and control of, for example industrial machinery plant and processes. The invention provides an apparatus and method whereby information derived from instrumentation which monitors, and if need be controls, for example, industrial machinery plant or processes, is passed via the Internet/Ethernet to a supervisor or a supervising instrumentation. Conversely, instructions for modifying the operation of said instruments and apparatus may be passed from the supervisor or supervising instrumentation via the Internet/Ethernet to the instrumentation which monitors and controls the plant or process. Preferably provision is made for each item of monitoring and control instrumentation to be provided with a different Internet/Ethernet address.